

Appl. No. 09/926,763
Amdt. dated May 24, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 24, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A seat for a chair adapted to provide independent support to both a person's sit bones and thighs, the seat comprising:

a) a first support surface disposed in a first plane and adapted to distribute a downward load of a person's trunk across the person's buttocks to provide independent support for the person's sit bones, the first support surface having a front-to-back extent; and

b) a second support surface disposed substantially forwardly of the first support surface in a second plane angled downwardly in relation to the first plane and adapted to support the person's thighs, the second support surface having a forward facing edge and a front-to-back extent adapted to extend from just forward of the person's sit bones to just behind the person's knees, so that the second support surface extends under and provides independent support for the person's thighs, and the front-to-back extent of the second support surface is approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface.

Claim 2. (Original) A seat according to claim 1 wherein the first support surface is substantially planar.

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Claim 3. (Original) A seat according to claim 2 wherein the second support surface is substantially planar and wherein the plane of the first support surface and the plane of the second support surface intersect so that when the first support surface is substantially horizontal, the second support surface extends substantially forwardly and downwardly with respect to the first support surface.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A seat according to claim 1 wherein the first support surface is a substantially planar surface having a perimetrical extent sufficient to extend under the person's buttocks to support the sit bones.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A seat according to claim 1 wherein the second support surface is a substantially planar surface having a perimetrical extent sufficient to extend under and support the person's thighs.

Claim 7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A seat according to claims 1 or 3 wherein the second support surface is angled downwardly in relation to the first support surface by an angle ranging from about 10° to about 30°.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A seat according to claim 8 wherein the second support surface is angled downwardly in relation to the first support surface by an angle of about 20°.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A seat according to claim 3 wherein the first support surface and the second support surface are joined along a common edge.

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Claim 11. (Original) A seat according to claim 10 wherein the common edge has a rounded profile.

Claim 12. (Original) A seat according to claim 11 wherein the rounded profile of the common edge is about 12 cm. radius.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A seat according to claims 1 or 3 further comprising a pommel extending upwardly from at least one of the support surfaces.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A chair comprising a seat adapted to provide independent support to both a person's sit bones and thighs, the seat comprising:

a) a first support surface disposed in a first plane and adapted to support a downward load of a person's trunk across the person's buttocks to provide independent support for the person's sit bones, the first support surface having a front-to-back extent; and

b) a second support surface disposed substantially forwardly of the first support surface in a second plane angled downwardly in relation to the first plane and adapted to support the person's thighs, the second support surface having a forward facing edge and a front-to-back extent adapted to extend from just forward of the person's sit bones to just behind the person's knees, so that the second support surface extends under and provides independent support for the person's thighs, and the front-to-back extent of the second support surface is approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface;

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and wherein the chair is adapted to dispose the first support surface of the seat above a floor at a height sufficient to allow the person's feet to be squarely resting on the floor when the person is seated on the seat.

Claim 15. (Original) A chair according to claim 14 wherein the first support surface is substantially planar.

Claim 16. (Original) A chair according to claim 15 wherein the second support surface is substantially planar, and wherein the plane of the first support surface and the plane of the second support surface intersect so that when the first support surface is substantially horizontal, the second support surface extends substantially forwardly and downwardly with respect to the first support surface.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A chair according to claim 14 wherein the first support surface of the seat is a substantially planar surface having a perimetrical extent sufficient to extend under a person's buttocks to support the sit bones.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A chair according to claim 14 wherein the second support surface of the seat is a substantially planar surface having a perimetrical extent sufficient to extend under and support a person's thighs.

Claim 20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A chair according to claims 14 or 16 wherein the second support surface is angled downwardly in relation to the first support surface by an angle ranging from about 10° to about 30°.

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Claim 22. (Previously Presented) A chair according to claim 21 wherein the second support surface is angled downwardly in relation to the first support surface by an angle of about 20°.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) A chair according to claim 16 wherein the first support surface and the second support surface are joined along a common edge.

Claim 24. (Original) A chair according to claim 23 wherein the common edge has a rounded profile.

Claim 25. (Original) A chair according to claim 24 wherein the rounded profile of the common edge is about 12 cm radius.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) A chair according to claims 14 or 16 further comprising a pommel extending upwardly from at least one of the support surfaces.

Claims 27–38 (Canceled)

Claim 39. (Currently Amended) A chair comprising:

a) a frame having a floor contacting portion adapted to rest on a floor;

b) a seat supported by the frame a distance above the floor contacting portion and adapted to provide independent support to both a person's sit bones and thighs, the seat having:

(i) a first support surface disposed in a first plane and adapted to distribute a downward load of the person's trunk across the person's

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buttocks to provide independent support for the person's sit bones, the first support surface having a front-to-back extent; and

(ii) a second support surface disposed substantially forwardly of the first support surface in a second plane angled downwardly in relation to the first plane for supporting a second portion of the person's weight, the second support surface adapted to extend from just forward of the person's sit bones to just behind the person's knees to provide independent support for the person's thighs, and the front-to-back extent of the second support surface is approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) The chair of claim 39 wherein the distance of the seat above the floor contacting portion as provided by the frame defines a seat height, and the seat height is adapted to allow the person's feet to rest squarely on the a floor engaged by the floor contacting portion when the person is seated on the seat.

Claim 41. (Currently Amended) The chair of claim 39 wherein the first support surface is adapted to bear a first portion of the weight of the person, the second support surface is adapted to bear a second portion of the weight of the person, and wherein the first and second portions of the weight of the user person are less than the total weight of the person.

Claim 42. (Canceled)

Claim 43. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 39 wherein the second support surface extends contiguously from a common edge between the first and second support surfaces to a forward facing edge.

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Claim 44. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 43 wherein the seat is adapted to position the common edge just forward of the person's sit bones.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 44 wherein the seat is adapted to position the forward facing edge just behind the knees of the person.